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Maryland
Department of Economic &
Employment Development

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

April, 1989

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
APRIL, 1989

MARYLAND

The number of unemployed declined and employment rose in April as Maryland's job market displayed its usual springtime expansion. The jobless rate dropped from 4.0 percent in March to 3.8 percent in April, the lowest figure for April since 1970, and a considerable improvement over last April's rate of 4.5 percent. Unemployment has continued to abate this year since peaking in February.

Seasonal factors normally trigger a reduction in unemployment at this time of year (although in 1988 joblessness held steady between March and April), while the labor force makes a rebound. This year though, an unusually cool and rainy April, coupled with strike activity in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, put a damper on job market activity. A particularly big boost in the labor force in March also moderated April's usual gains. Consequently, fewer jobseekers found employment in April than expected, resulting in a slight contraction in the state's labor force.

	April 1989	March 1989	April 1988
Civilian Labor Force	2,496,258	2,496,279	2,453,755
Total Employment	2,401,745	2,397,296	2,342,740
Total Unemployment	94,513	98,983	111,015
Unemployment Rate	3.8	4.0	4.5
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	5.3

An estimated 2,401,745 Marylanders were working in April, a modest gain of 4,449 from March, but about 59,000 more than last April. While another 94,513 were unable to find work, this was nevertheless an over the month reduction of 4,470 jobless. Since April of last year the number of unemployed has declined by over 16,500 persons. In part due to the relatively mild winter, each month of 1989 so far has recorded an unemployment rate significantly below the 1988 pace.

Nationally, unemployment dropped from 5.2 percent in March to 5.1 percent in April, as employment climbed while the number of unemployed receded. Maryland has continued to rank well below the national jobless level. In April the state was tied for 8th lowest unemployment rate in the nation.

Nonagricultural payroll employment advanced in April as seasonal factors spurred on the state's economy. A net gain of 6,800 jobs was recorded in the monthly establishment survey, with the entire increase occurring among nonmanufacturing concerns. Overall, an estimated 7,900 jobs were added in nonmanufacturing, while at the same time 1,100 others were lost in factories, mostly due to a major strike in transportation equipment.

Maryland's job market has advanced steadily since declining in January. However, payroll employment growth each month this year has been running well below last year's showing. This April's hiring activity amounted to less than half of that reported a year ago. An over the year gain of about 32,000 new jobs represents a moderate 1.5 percent increase in nonagricultural employment.

A number of factors appear to be involved in this growth slowdown: the aforementioned labor dispute, an unseasonably cool, wet spring, and the same economic pressures that are causing a national deceleration in new job creation. Low unemployment, higher interest rates, and the threat of inflation appear to be putting a break on the nation's fast moving job machine. An easing in the state's payroll expansion rate could only be good news to those employers feeling strapped by labor shortages.

Industry employment trends varied in April. Durable goods manufacturing suffered the only major setback (-1,200 over the month, and -3,100 over the year), primarily from strike activity, but also from weakness in electrical and electronic equipment, an industry that has been slumping nationwide. Makers of nondurable goods netted a mere 100 jobs. Most manufacturers registered little or no change. Last April producers fared somewhat better, with durable goods unchanged over the month, and nondurables adding 300 jobs.

Among nonmanufacturers growth was the norm, with the biggest gainers to be found in seasonally-sensitive businesses. Construction added the most jobs (3,500) of any division in April and, for the present, helped quell uncertainty in the industry caused by higher interest rates. Retail trade rose by 2,300 jobs in April, with most of the new employment in restaurants. Since a year ago retail has added 6,800 new positions, with expansion most notable in food stores, miscellaneous retail, general merchandise stores, and restaurants. Wholesale trade's gain of some 200 jobs was concentrated in distributors of nondurables. Services industries added another 1,600 workers over the month, with hiring strongest in amusement services, hotels/motels, and agricultural services. Since April 1988 services has accelerated at an above average rate, enlarging its payrolls by about 10,300.

Transportation, communication, and public utilities moved up 500 jobs in April. The transportation (other than railroad) component accounted for most of the increase. Finance, insurance, and real estate added about 400 positions, with most of the gains occurring among banks and other credit agencies.

Government was the only nonmanufacturer to register a drop in April. While both federal and state employment grew, a decline in local government, mainly in education, caused the public sector to recede by 700 jobs.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(IN THOUSANDS)
APRIL 1989

Major Industry Group	April 1989	March 1989	April 1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2110.2	2103.4	2078.2
Manufacturing	205.1	206.2	208.2
Durable Goods	108.8	110.0	111.9
Nondurable Goods	96.3	96.2	96.3
Nonmanufacturing	1905.1	1897.2	1870.0
Mining	1.7	1.6	1.7
Construction	159.2	155.7	157.5
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	96.3	95.8	94.5
Wholesale and Retail Trade	534.1	531.6	526.3
Wholesale Trade	113.3	113.1	112.3
Retail Trade	420.8	418.5	414.0
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	130.8	130.4	128.5
Services	570.1	568.5	559.8
Total Government	412.9	413.6	401.7
Federal	131.8	131.4	131.3
State	96.5	96.2	93.9
Local	184.6	186.0	176.5

* The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Additional industry detail available upon request.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
APRIL 1989

Major Industry Grouping	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS		AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS	
	Apr.1989	Mar.1989	Apr.1989	Mar.1989	Apr.1989	Mar.1989
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.4	41.3	$449.60	$451.82	$10.86	$10.94
Durable Goods	42.7	42.8	495.32	500.76	11.60	11.70
Lumber and Wood Products	38.2	36.9	325.46	311.07	8.52	8.43
Furniture and Fixtures	41.0	40.3	402.62	403.40	9.82	10.01
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	46.7	46.2	507.16	498.04	10.86	10.78
Primary Metal Industries	43.2	43.5	623.38	631.62	14.43	14.52
Fabricated Metals	41.0	40.0	411.23	393.20	10.03	9.83
Machinery, Exc. Electrical	43.6	44.0	525.38	537.24	12.05	12.21
Electronic and Electrical Equipment	42.5	42.2	422.88	415.25	9.95	9.84
Transportation Equipment	43.7	45.9	662.06	699.06	15.15	15.23
Instruments and Related	38.9	39.5	373.44	375.65	9.60	9.51
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Indus.	41.5	39.0	361.88	344.37	8.72	8.83
Nondurable Goods	40.0	39.7	402.80	401.37	10.07	10.11
Food and Kindred Products	39.5	38.3	366.96	357.34	9.29	9.33
Apparel and Textile Products	36.6	36.5	251.44	253.68	6.87	6.95
Paper and Allied Products	42.5	42.4	416.50	411.28	9.80	9.70
Printing and Publishing	38.8	38.8	464.44	467.93	11.97	12.06
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.8	43.3	517.88	530.86	12.10	12.26
Rubber and Plastic Products	42.8	42.9	390.34	387.82	9.12	9.04
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.2	41.3	$467.62	$474.54	$11.35	$11.49
Durable Goods	42.4	42.7	508.80	520.94	12.00	12.20
Nondurable Goods	36.4	36.4	420.15	418.97	10.53	10.58

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

The Baltimore Metropolitan Area's job market advanced in April, with unemployment dropping back 0.2 percentage points to 4.2 percent--a record low for the month. The number of employed increased in every jurisdiction, while the jobless rolls were reduced in all but Howard County. Unemployment rose slightly in Howard with the rate moving up 0.2 percentage points to 2.2 percent, still keeping Howard tied with Montgomery County for the state's lowest jobless level. Baltimore County's unemployment rate was unchanged in April, while all others recorded declines.

Nonagricultural payroll employment netted 6,200 new jobs in the metropolitan area in April. The gain of 6,800 workers by nonmanufacturers was diminished by the 600 positions that were lost in manufacturing. Employment in durable goods was depressed by a major strike in transportation equipment. In nonmanufacturing, all private sector divisions expanded, with the exception of finance, insurance, and real estate, which was unchanged. Construction and retail trade accounted for the most new growth. Trends in the public sector varied, with a loss overall of 400 jobs. Federal employment grew; state government was flat; and local government dropped as employment in education receded.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Unemployment inched downward in Maryland's Washington area suburbs from 2.8 percent in March to 2.7 percent in April. Little overall change was recorded in the labor force. In Calvert, Charles, and Frederick counties declines were observed as a reduction in the number of unemployed outpaced the addition of new workers. In Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, modest gains were noted for both employed and unemployed, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged in Montgomery and causing a marginal rise in Prince George's. Montgomery, along with Howard County, has the state's lowest unemployment rate. Since last April the region's labor force has increased by over 27,000, while the number of unemployed has been reduced by about 5,450.

Payroll employment advanced by 3,500 positions, with wide variation among industry groups. Nine out of ten new jobs were in either construction or services. Gains were also reported in finance, insurance, and real estate, durable goods manufacture, and retail trade. A slight reduction in trucking caused transportation, communication, and public utilities to slip downward, as did wholesale trade. A marginal drop in federal jobs reduced total government by 100.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Western Maryland's job market moved forward in April as unemployment receded from 7.1 percent to 6.9 percent. More significant, however, was the reduction from last April's rate of 8.0 percent, setting a new low for April. The region still maintained the highest jobless level in Maryland, though, well above the statewide average. April's improvement was entirely due to an overall decline in the number of jobless, as resident employment activity was flat. Unemployment abated in Allegany and Garrett Counties, but rose in Washington County, as a brief shutdown in textiles swelled the unemployed ranks.

The establishment survey reported a net increase of about 300 nonagricultural jobs in April, all in nonmanufacturing, as manufacturing employment deceased by 100, due to the aforementioned shutdown. Job growth was strongest in services and mining (+600), with solid gains also observed in trade (+200). Employment in transportation, communication, and public utilities and finance, insurance, and real estate was unchanged over the month. Government employment decreased by 100, all at the local level.

BALANCE OF STATE

The Balance of State region recorded an unemployment drop of 0.5 percentage points over the month to a rate of 5.4 percent. As the area's heavily seasonal economy began picking up steam, joblessness subsided considerably in all but Somerset and Wicomico Counties. Unseasonably cool, wet weather impeded seafood harvests, delaying recalls in related food processors, and pushing up unemployment in Somerset in particular, as labor force entrants were unable to find work. Still, all counties registered a drop in joblessness from last April. The area improved from last year's rate of 6.1 percent, continuing a decade-long decline in unemployment.

An estimated 2,000 jobs, many of them seasonal recalls, were added to Balance of State payrolls in April. This gain represented the strongest growth rate for at-place employment of any area in Maryland. Half of this growth took place in services alone. Trade was responsible for the next largest share of new jobs, while finance, insurance, and real estate was another rapid growth area. Construction, transportation, communication, and public utilities, and durable goods manufacturing also took an upturn in April. Nondurable goods employment declined as jobs in food processing and printing/publishing were diminished. Government realized a net loss as job growth in state employment was negated by a reduction in local government.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--APRIL 1989

Major Industry Grouping	BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA		MARYLAND PORTION D.C. SUBURBS		WESTERN MARYLAND		BALANCE OF STATE	
	Apr.1989	Mar.1989	Apr.1989	Mar.1989	Apr.1989	Mar.1989	Apr.1989	Mar.1989
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1124.3	1118.1	763.8	760.3	90.1	89.8	136.0	134.0
Manufacturing	130.0	130.6	36.3	36.1	15.5	15.6	23.7	23.8
Durable Goods	73.2	74.0	18.3	18.1	7.5	7.5	9.7	9.6
Nondurable Goods	56.8	56.6	18.0	18.0	8.0	8.1	14.0	14.2
Nonmanufacturing	994.3	987.5	727.5	724.2	74.6	74.2	112.3	110.2
Construction	75.4	72.8	68.0	66.3	6.2	6.5	10.1	9.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	55.3	54.8	29.2	29.3	5.1	5.1	7.6	7.5
Wholesale and Retail Trade	274.3	271.5	201.8	201.8	25.5	25.3	34.0	33.4
Wholesale Trade	67.3	66.6	36.2	36.3	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	207.0	204.9	165.6	165.5	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	77.3	77.3	44.5	44.2	3.3	3.3	4.9	4.7
Services and Mining	300.9	299.6	221.7	220.2	19.8	19.2	31.0	30.0
Total Government	211.1	211.5	162.3	162.4	14.7	14.8	24.7	24.8
Federal	53.4	52.7	70.0	70.1	1.9	1.9	6.7	6.7
State	65.8	65.8	20.6	20.6	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.0
Local	91.9	93.0	71.7	71.7	8.1	8.2	12.9	13.1

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request. Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

APRIL, 1989

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL	MARCH*	APRIL'88
MARYLAND	2,496,258	2,496,279	2,401,745	2,397,296	94,513	98,983	3.8	4.0	4.5
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,192,718	1,192,704	1,143,183	1,140,604	49,535	52,100	4.2	4.4	4.9
BALTIMORE CITY	343,020	343,054	320,410	319,687	22,610	23,367	6.6	6.8	7.8
ANNE ARUNDEL	213,604	213,546	207,679	207,211	5,925	6,335	2.8	3.0	3.3
BALTIMORE	386,970	386,280	372,844	372,003	14,126	14,277	3.7	3.7	4.4
CARROLL	61,927	62,435	60,286	60,150	1,641	2,285	2.6	3.7	2.8
HARFORD	80,548	80,981	77,659	77,484	2,889	3,497	3.6	4.3	4.4
HOWARD	91,199	90,870	89,237	89,036	1,962	1,834	2.2	2.0	2.3
QUEEN ANNE'S	15,449	15,537	15,067	15,033	382	504	2.5	3.2	3.7
D. C. AREA	996,313	996,065	969,512	968,607	26,801	27,458	2.7	2.8	3.3
CALVERT	23,175	23,295	22,335	22,314	840	981	3.6	4.2	4.7
CHARLES	47,892	47,940	46,669	46,625	1,223	1,315	2.6	2.7	3.0
FREDERICK	76,844	77,482	74,902	74,832	1,942	2,650	2.5	3.4	3.3
MONTGOMERY	426,473	425,909	417,007	416,617	9,466	9,292	2.2	2.2	2.7
PRINCE GEORGE'S	421,929	421,439	408,600	408,219	13,329	13,220	3.2	3.1	3.9
WESTERN MARYLAND	104,848	105,018	97,596	97,601	7,252	7,417	6.9	7.1	8.0
ALLEGANY	32,801	32,926	30,109	30,021	2,692	2,905	8.2	8.8	10.0
GARRETT	12,747	12,951	11,652	11,672	1,095	1,279	8.6	9.9	9.5
WASHINGTON	59,300	59,141	55,835	55,908	3,465	3,233	5.8	5.5	6.5
BALANCE OF STATE	202,378	202,492	191,452	190,485	10,926	12,007	5.4	5.9	6.1
CAROLINE	13,727	14,151	13,194	13,456	533	695	3.9	4.9	5.0
CECIL	34,589	34,696	33,009	32,746	1,580	1,950	4.6	5.6	5.9
DORCHESTER	17,423	17,180	16,177	15,772	1,246	1,408	7.2	8.2	6.5
KENT	9,191	9,114	8,847	8,680	344	434	3.7	4.8	5.2
ST. MARY'S	38,261	39,039	36,577	37,280	1,684	1,759	4.4	4.5	5.1
SOMERSET	11,894	11,325	10,212	9,899	1,682	1,426	14.1	12.6	14.5
TALBOT	16,724	17,128	16,262	16,545	462	583	2.8	3.4	3.5
WICOMICO	40,571	41,346	38,414	39,277	2,157	2,069	5.3	5.0	5.8
WORCESTER	19,998	18,513	18,760	16,830	1,238	1,683	6.2	9.1	7.3
UNITED STATES [1]	122,576,000	122,223,000	116,347,000	115,844,000	6,229,000	6,378,000	5.1	5.2	5.3

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

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